

SENATE BILL 3558

By Ford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to school attire.

WHEREAS, the wearing of clothing in an indecent manner by students in the public schools often preoccupies and distracts students from their major purpose for being in school, that of becoming educated in math, science, English, history, and other subjects; and

WHEREAS, student competition over the manner in which clothing is worn could lead to violence and injuries during school hours; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting students from wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment will advance the education of students and make disruptive incidents of violence less likely to occur; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 40, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-6-40__.

(a) An LEA shall include in its student discipline code a provision prohibiting students from wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment.

(b) An LEA shall specify in its student discipline code the disciplinary actions that shall be taken against a student for a violation of subsection (a).

(c) Subsection (a) shall not be enforced in a manner that discriminates against a student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.